

## ■ ENTERPRISE SCHEME



Power source: Helen Clark speaks at the launch of the Lion Emergency Generator invented by the ACE team from St Thomas of Canterbury College. Team members are Craig Stariton, left, Andrew Coburn, Stephen Pilton, Sean Feast, Sam Mackwell, and James Agnew. Photo: IAIN McCREGOR

# Hard work generates results for students

Georgina Stylianou  
georginastylanou@press.co.nz

Six Christchurch high school pupils have learnt the "true meaning" of trial and error, says former prime minister Helen Clark.

The St Thomas of Canterbury College pupils spent months creating an emergency power generator that can produce electricity from waste heat to power cell-phones and charge batteries.

The project was part of the Lion Foundation's Young Enterprise Scheme, which the college has taken part in for about 10 years.

Clark, who now heads the United Nations Development

Programme, was among the guests at the launch of the Lion Emergency Generator at the school yesterday.

The pupils had found the "true meaning of trial and error", Clark said.

"Cantabrians know firsthand how isolating it can be to not have power," she said.

"And even though your product is deceptively simple, although I am aware that it was not so simple to create, it truly does have a lot of potential and I congratulate all of you for having a vision and seeing it through."

Year 13 pupil James Agnew, 17, part of the Advanced Clean Energies enterprise, said he was excited to see the

team's hard work pay off.

"It's a day of celebration for us. We've all put in a lot of work and it feels great to have it pay off," he said.

"And it's amazing to have Helen Clark here. Who would have thought that such a respected person would reply to an email from a random teenager?"

College principal Christine O'Brien said the generator would have been "very useful" in the aftermath of the February quake.

"I was stuck behind the cordon with a 6pm curfew and I was using my cellphone a lot to keep in touch with everyone," she said.

"It was really frustrating

not being able to charge it in the evenings and I really could have done with one of these gadgets."

Sam Mackwell, 17, said school closures after the quake had knocked the team back a few steps but they had "stayed determined".

"We ended up doing a lot of work at my house instead, so it worked out OK," he said.

Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce chief executive Peter Townsend, Labour MP Ruth Dyson and Christchurch City councillor Helen Broughton also attended the launch.

The generator is on sale at Mitre 10 Mega in Hornby for \$49.95.